

Appl. No. 10/785,088
In re Kroppe
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated June 30, 2005. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Claim 20 was objected to because of a minor informality. Claim 20 has been amended to overcome this objection. No new matter has been added. Furthermore, claims 1-6 and 8-20 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Imaseki et al. (US 4,921,060). Claims 12, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imaseki in view of Clair et al. (US 6,179,310). The Examiner also noted that claims 7-9, 14 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7. No new matter has been added. Claim 7 has been canceled.

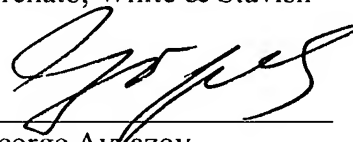
Moreover, new claims 21 and 22 have been added representing claims 14 and 20, respectively, rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added.

Appl. No. 10/785,088
In re Kroppe
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2005

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 and 8-22 define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:
Berenato, White & Stavish

By: 
George Ayvazov
Reg. N° 37,483

6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Tel. (301) 896-0600
Fax (301) 896-0607